

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2016 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened by announcing that this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, the New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Mayor Horne, Alderman Jackson, Kittel, Montello, Volkert, and Zajkowski

Members Absent: Alderman Ard

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Montello moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

2017 Budget Update

Mike Darrow explained the process used for the budget this year. The community was invited to participate in the process including an online survey with over 100 responses. Noah Wiedenfeld explained the survey process and results including strengths, challenges, priorities, and ways to improve. This will be included in the budget book and reviewed on an annual basis. Kari Kraft highlighted the changes in our health insurance for 2017. This will have a 1% impact on the budget. Staff is recommending a new wellness program that would include incentives for participation.

Staff highlighted the following areas of changes in the budget:

Capital replacement items such as a Police special services vehicle, a/c unit for the Civic Center, the Comprehensive Plan, reconfiguring the customer service area in the Civic Center and the purchase of a fire truck.

The Police Department plans to reduce overtime by \$5,000 by exploring the creation of a power shift for sergeants.

The budget for downtown improvements will be increased from \$2,500 to \$14,000. The Emergency Government will be increased by \$10,000 for a multi-modal notification system which could alert residents about severe weather, street projects, public safety concerns, or other items. We could notify residents in specific neighborhoods or City-wide, depending on the situation.

Park Improvements will be increased by \$20,000 for updating bins and recycling bins.

Information Technology will be increased by \$25,000 for software upgrades and evaluate in-house support of services currently contracted through a third-party provider. Several other budget items were discussed as well. The next step will be to publish the budget notice and hold a Public Hearing on December 5, 2016.

There was also discussion regarding a Special Council meeting on November 7, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. to further discuss the budget.

Employee Handbook Update

Kari Kraft discussed changes in the employee handbook.

Sign Ordinance

There was discussion regarding the sign ordinance. Noah Wiedenfeld gave an overview of the new ordinance.

Commons Master Plan

Mike Darrow explained that there was a meeting with all of the neighbors and the school board. The discussion at this meeting was about the master plan for the commons site. There will be a meeting with the City Council and School Board in November to further discuss this.

Class A Beer & Liquor License Quota

Beth Thompson discussed the current quota on Class A licenses for fermented malt beverages and intoxicating liquors. She presented a comparison of surrounding communities as well. Discussion followed.

2017 Special Services Vehicle Bids

Craig Yehlik presented the following bids for a Special Services Vehicle:

2017 Ford Explorer \$43,120

2017 Chevrolet Tahoe \$36,164

2017 Dodge Durango \$29,580

2017 Dodge Charger \$25,310

Staff recommended to accept the bid from Bernard's Northtown for the 2017 Dodge Durango for a base price of \$28,995 with the external light bar package for \$6,995, accept the trade-in value on Squad #19 for \$11,000, with a total vehicle purchase price of \$24,995. It was also recommended to purchase the optional 5 year/100,000 mile extended warranty with a zero deductible for \$2,590 along with the vehicle maintenance package that includes 20 synthetic oil changes and one new set of replacement tires for \$2,000. The total cost of the special services vehicle will be \$29,580 with a delivery date after January 1, 2017. Alderman Zajkowski moved to approve the purchase of the 2017 Dodge Durango as stated above, seconded by Alderman Volkert and carried. Alderman Montello abstained.

Communications & Miscellaneous

Jeremiah Wendt stated that there will be a public meeting on November 10, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. for the North Fourth Street project. Craig Yehlik thanked Carlos De La Cruz for bringing in items that might be in a child's room to hide drugs to show Council members and staff.

Closed Session per Statute 19.85 (1)(c)(e)

Alderman Montello moved to go into Closed Session per State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Non-Union Wages and State Statute 19.85 (1)(e) conducting specified public business, whenever competitive bargaining reasons require a closed session. Motion seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

Open Session

Alderman Montello moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Tanya Batchelor
City Clerk